

REMARKS

Specification

The disclosure was objected to because there was no Summary.

The specification has been amended to include a Summary. Additionally, the specification has been amended to correct errors of a clerical or grammatical nature. No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections

Claims 9-11 stand rejected under 37 USC 112 as indefinite.

Claim 41 stands rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2002/0152120 (Howington).

Claims 1-8 and 15-40 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0220139 (Peterson) in view of Howington. Claims 9-14 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Peterson in view of Howington and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/00544878 (Benoy et al.).

Claim Amendments

Claims 9-11 have been amended to eliminate the indefiniteness rejection.

Also, independent claims 1, 35, 38 and 41 have been amended to patentably distinguish over the cited references.

Additionally, claim 42 has been added.

The Cited Art

Howington is directed to a casino management system for tracking machine history, for tracking location history, for tagging construction activity in a casino location, and for changing machine placards without losing historical machine or location information. (§0019). Figures 4-8 illustrate sample display screens for viewing and querying historical records associated with gaming machines. Specifically, Figure 4 illustrates a graphical interface for viewing, querying and retrieving placard changes and location changes for various gaming machines. (§0029). The display screen of Figure 5 provides information on machine performance as opposed to machine location, placard and revision history. (§0032). Figure 6 contains similar location, placard and machine information as is displayed in Figures 4 and 5. Figure 6 also includes information relating to wins, recorded currency amounts and counts for a particular gaming machine.

(¶0033). Figure 7 illustrates a visual analysis tool presenting machine performance information as bar graphs in a data table. (¶0038). Figure 8 demonstrates the sortability and relational features of the visual analysis in presenting comparisons between machines regarding performance, manufacturer, denomination, average daily win, total win and coin in. (¶0039) Further, Figures 10-12 illustrate casino floor layouts. Specifically, Figure 10 is an overhead two dimensional view of gaming machines on a casino floor. (¶0042). Figures 11 and 12 show possible three dimensional views of the gaming machines. (¶0048). All these figures of Howington represent displays and information used by casino management to manage and operate the various gaming machines in a casino.

Peterson is directed a gambling machine winning information viewing system 10 that includes a least one gambling machine 20 coupled to a viewing display mounted or suspended from an elevated surface, such as a ceiling 90. The display displays jackpot winning information received for the gambling machines. The display may be a video monitored 30 coupled to a gambling machine's control unit 35 located inside the gambling machine. The control unit 35 collects jackpot winning information 70 and adds the time and date of the last jackpot awarded and the number of jackpots awarded within a selected time period and their amounts. The control unit 35 can also transmit gambling machine identification information to the display. (¶0018). In another embodiment, the display is an LCD projector 60. (¶0021). Further, the control unit 35 in each gambling machine 20 may be connected to a central receiver 80 that collects the jackpot winning information from a plurality of gambling machines. A casino operator is able to control the central receiver 80 so that only those gambling machines that have jackpot winnings at a predetermined level or only those gambling machines located in certain areas of the casino are displayed. (¶0022).

Benoy et al. is directed to a gaming machine used to provide a method of registering a player to a loyalty program. (Abstract). The gaming machine may have a touch screen display 16 used as an interface to provide player tracking services and to provide other game services to a player playing a game on the gaming machine. (¶0036). A printer button 204 may be used to obtain metering information about a printer on the gaming machine that issues printed tickets that may be used to obtain gaming credits on the gaming machines or redeemed for cash. (¶0066).

Applicant's Claimed Invention is Neither Anticipated Nor Would It Have Been Obvious

Howington does not disclose each and every limitation of amended claim 41. Thus, this claim is not anticipated by Howington.

Further, the combination of Peterson and Howington does not result in Applicants' claimed invention. Thus, a prima facie case of obviousness has not been made out.

Amended claim 1, for instance, calls for a method for communicating a gaming machine's past payouts to a player. The method includes tracking gaming machine payout data and storing a record of the payout data in memory accessible by the gaming machine. The method further includes accepting criteria from a player such that particular payout data is selected from the record to generate a report. The report derived from the record is communicated to the player.

Amended claim 41, by way of example, calls for a system for displaying the past play data of a gaming machine. The system comprises a plurality of gaming machines, each gaming machine having a display, and a server coupled to the plurality of gaming machines. Past play data is stored on the server and an input device is configured to accept criteria from a player. A processor is structured to analyze the past play data using the criteria input by the player such that particular past play data is selected from the past play data stored on the server and to generate indicia on the display. The indicia corresponds to the past play data selected using the criteria input by the player.

In Howington and Peterson, a player is not able to input criteria such that particular payout data is selected from a record of payout data to generate a report based on the criteria input by the player. To the contrary, the system of Howington provides information to manage and operate the gaming machines in a casino. A player does not have access to this information for the purpose of generating a report or, for that matter, for any other purpose. Likewise, the system of Peterson can display current or historical jackpot winning information from a gambling machine. The information displayed is determined by and under the control of a casino operator. A player is not able to input criteria to select what jackpot information is displayed.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Applicant's claimed invention is not anticipated by nor would it have been obvious in view of Howington and Peterson, either alone or in combination with other references.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all the claims are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, allowance of the claims at the earliest possible date is requested.

If prosecution of this application can be assisted by telephone, the Examiner is requested to call Applicant's undersigned attorney at (510) 663-1100.

If any fees are due in connection with the filing of this amendment (including any fees due for an extension of time), such fees may be charged to Deposit Account No. 504480 (Order No. IGT1P328).

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Respectfully submitted,

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